(c) MPLADS guidelines have been revised recently in February, 1997 which allow procurement of hospital equipments like X-ray machines, ambulances and other life-saving equipments and setting up of mobile dispensaries in rural areas. The works recommended under the Scheme shall be developmental in nature and for creation of durable assets. Revenue expenditure is prohibited under the Scheme. The concerned Hon'ble Members of Parliament may recommend such items of work as they consider fit and appropriate, within the MPLADS guidelines to District Collector, Amravati.

Infrastructure equalisation in the North-East

*326. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to include the North-Eastern region, for their infrastructure equalisation, in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) in which items of Plan formulation, Government are giving stress for the socio-economic development of this region Statewise; and

(c) the measures to be taken for resource mobilisation of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) In respect of the North-Eastern Region, the approach to Ninth Five-Year Plan envisages that attention will be focussed on identifying gaps in this Region in terms of critical infrastructure so that efforts could be made to bridge the gaps through supportive measures to enable this Region to join the mainstream of the economic development of the country. This objective would be appropriately pursued through the Five-Year Plans and Annual Plans of the North-Eastern States and the Central Ministries/agencies.

The announcement of the former Prime Minister made at Guwahati on October 27, 1996 regarding "New Initiatives for the North-Eastern Region", which includes a number of projects for infrastructure development to be executed on a priority basis, is a step in this direction. In pursuance of this announcement, a High Level Commission (HLC) was also set up to critically examine the backlog in Basic Minimum Services (BMS) and gaps in important sectors of infrastructure development in this Region and to suggest policies, programmes and requirement of funds to bridge these gaps. The Report of the HLC, which was submitted on March 7, 1997, contains a large number of recommendations for development of various sectors including infrastructure in respect of each State of the North Eastern Region.

(b) In addition to meeting critical infrastructural needs, development programmes for the North-Eastern States would aim at provision of BMS, which include housing for shelterless poor, rural connectivity, safe drinking water supply, elementary education, primary health care, nutrition and public distribution system, and creation of employment opportunities, besides promoting efforts towards land and water management, etc.

(c) Planning Commission has been advising North-Eastern States to reduce their non-Plan expenditure and to widen their tax and non-tax base for generating additional resources to finance development programmes. The HLC, while recommending measures for rejuvenating the economy of the Region, has also made some suggestions for additional resource mobilisation by the North-Eastern States.

सरकार के काम-काज में पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने हेतु विधान

*327. श्री ईश दत्त यादव :
श्री रामगोपाल यादव :

क्या प्रधानमंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार अपने काम-काज में पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने तथा सूचना